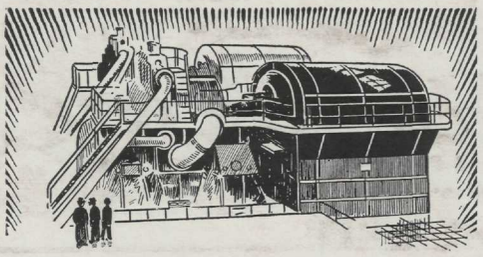
G-E *Campus News*



BIGGER AND BETTER TURBINES

The new 110,000-kilowatt turbine-generator, built by General Electric and recently placed in service in the River Rouge plant of the Ford Motor Company, sets several new records in turbine construction.

It is the first large unit in the world to operate at 1200 pounds pressure and at 900 Fahrenheit. Although the weight is approximately 2,000,000 pounds, it is so compact that it occupies less than a cubic foot for each kilowatt of output. Because of its extremely high efficiency, less than a pound of coal is needed to generate a kilowatt-hour of electric energy.

The new turbine is a vertical compound machine with the high-pressure turbine and generator mounted directly above the low-pressure unit. Superheated steam enters the upper unit at 12 pounds and 900 degrees. After producing 55,000 kilowatts, the steam flows directly into the low-pressure unit where it produces another 55,000 kilowatts before it is exhausted to the condenser. This is the first 1200-pound turbine in which the steam enters the low-pressure stage without reheating.

The work of designing, constructing, testing, and installing great turbines, such as this, is the accomplishment of hundreds of graduates of technical colleges and universities—men who are also graduates of the G-E Test.

ELECTRIC HEAT FOR SOILLESS GARDENS

California nurserymen are growing tomatoes, strawberries, and sweet peas in chemically treated water heated by electricity. The method, developed by Dr. W. F. Gericke, of the University of California, has been extended to commercial installations. Tomato plants, grown in this way, produced unusually high-quality tomatoes. The yield was large, and they matured ahead of tomatoes grown in soil.

Nourishment for the plants is provided by special chemicals dissolved in the water. Because the water temperature must be accurately maintained, a controllable heat source is required, and General Electric engineers have supplied heating cable and thermostats both for the experimental installation and for commercial installations which have followed.

COFFIN FELLOWSHIPS

This fall eight young men will be carrying on advanced research in seven American universities under fellowship grants from the Charles A. Coffin Foundation. The recipients and their research problems:

George E. Boyd, U. of Chicago '33. At Chicago. Study of surface energies.

Lyman R. Fink, U. of California '33. At California. Phenomena in synchronous machines. Second grant of fellowship.

Alvin H. Howell, U. of Kansas '29. At M.I.T. Insulation problems in d-c transmission.

Russell A. Nielsen, Stanford '33. At Stanford. Electron mobilities.

Richard W. Porter, U. of Kansas '34. At Yale. Transients in the monocyclic network. Second grant.

Julian S. Schwinger, Columbia '36. At Columbia. Theoretical investigations in nuclear physics.

Chauncey Starr, R.P.I. '32. At Harvard. The pressure coefficient of thermal conductivity. Second grant.

Harold G. Vogt, U. of Buffalo '31. At Harvard. The nature of the neutron.

Since 1922, when the General Electric Company established the Charles A. Coffin Foundation in honor of the Company's first president, 113 fellowships have been awarded for advanced work in electricity, physics, and physical chemistry.

GENERAL ELECTRIC